

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for providing workflow management of a supply chain,
2 comprising the steps of:
 - 3 (a) allowing businesses to engage in activities utilizing a network, wherein the
4 activities each include a plurality of steps;
 - 5 (b) updating at least one document for each activity upon completion of each of
6 the steps;
 - 7 (c) executing services to acquire information from users utilizing the network;
8 and
 - 9 (d) performing tasks to populate the document with the information gathered by
10 the execution of the services.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the businesses are apparel
2 businesses.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the document provides an audit
2 trail of the associated activity.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein only a single user can execute a
2 service at a time.
- 1 5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the document is published after
2 the services are executed in order to allow the users to initiate the
3 performance of the tasks.
- 1 6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein contracts exist between the steps
2 of the activity, and further comprising the step of enforcing the completion of
3 the steps utilizing the contracts.

1 7. A computer program product for providing workflow management of a
2 supply chain, comprising:

3 (a) computer code for allowing businesses to engage in activities utilizing a
4 network, wherein the activities each include a plurality of steps;

5 (b) computer code for updating at least one document for each activity upon
6 completion of each of the steps;

7 (c) computer code for executing services to acquire information from users
8 utilizing the network; and

9 (d) computer code for performing tasks to populate the document with the
10 information gathered by the execution of the services.

1 8. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the businesses
2 are apparel businesses.

1 9. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the document
2 provides an audit trail of the associated activity.

1 10. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein only a single
2 user can execute a service at a time.

1 11. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein the document
2 is published after the services are executed in order to allow the users to
3 initiate the performance of the tasks.

1 12. The computer program product as recited in claim 7, wherein contracts exist
2 between the steps of the activity, and further comprising computer code for
3 enforcing the completion of the steps utilizing the contracts.

1 13. A system for providing workflow management of a supply chain,
2 comprising:

- 3 (a) logic for allowing businesses to engage in activities utilizing a network,
4 wherein the activities each include a plurality of steps;
5 (b) logic for updating at least one document for each activity upon completion of
6 each of the steps;
7 (c) logic for executing services to acquire information from users utilizing the
8 network; and
9 (d) logic for performing tasks to populate the document with the information
10 gathered by the execution of the services.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the businesses are apparel
2 businesses.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the document provides an audit
2 trail of the associated activity.

1 16. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein only a single user can execute a
2 service at a time.

1 17. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the document is published after
2 the services are executed in order to allow the users to initiate the
3 performance of the tasks.

1 18. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein contracts exist between the steps
2 of the activity, and further comprising logic for enforcing the completion of
3 the steps utilizing the contracts.